

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A sheath having a distal end opaque to x-rays, comprising:
a sheath body, said sheath body comprising a first longitudinally extending sheath score line running substantially along a length of said sheath body;

a radiopaque marker located at a distal end of said sheath body, said radiopaque marker comprising a substantially cylindrical marker body; and

at least one longitudinally extending marker score line running substantially along a length of said radiopaque marker;

wherein said radiopaque marker abuts said sheath.
2. The sheath of claim 1, further comprising:

a second sheath score line running substantially along said length of said sheath body; and

a second marker score line running substantially along said length of said radiopaque marker.
3. The sheath of claim 2, wherein said first and second sheath score lines are located on an exterior surface of said sheath body.
4. The sheath of claim 2, wherein:

said first and second sheath score lines are located approximately opposite one another along an interior wall of said sheath body; and

said first and second marker score lines are located approximately opposite one another along said marker body.
5. The sheath of claim 4, wherein:

- said first sheath score line and said first marker score line are aligned; and
- said second sheath score line and said second marker score line are aligned.
6. The sheath of claim 5, wherein:
- said radiopaque marker is located within said sheath body; and
- said radiopaque marker is bonded to said sheath body.
7. The sheath of claim 6, wherein said radiopaque marker is thermally bonded to said sheath body.
8. The sheath of claim 5, wherein said radiopaque marker is embedded in said sheath body.
9. A sheath having a distal end opaque to x-rays, comprising:
- a sheath body, said sheath body comprising a first longitudinally extending sheath score line running substantially along a length of said sheath body;
- a radiopaque marker located at a distal end of said sheath body; said radiopaque marker comprising a substantially cylindrical marker body; and
- at least one longitudinally extending marker notch running substantially along a length of said radiopaque marker;
- wherein said radiopaque marker abuts said sheath.
10. The sheath of claim 9, further comprising:
- a second sheath score line running substantially along said length of said sheath body; and
- a second marker notch running substantially along said length of said radiopaque marker;

said first and second sheath score lines are located approximately opposite one another along an interior wall of said sheath body; and

said first and second marker notches are located approximately opposite one another along said marker body.

11. The sheath of claim 10, wherein:

said first sheath score line and said first marker notch are aligned; and

said second sheath score line and said second marker notch are aligned.

12. The sheath of claim 11, wherein said radiopaque marker is embedded within said sheath body.

13. The sheath of claim 12, wherein said first marker notch is V-shaped.

14. The sheath of claim 12, wherein said first marker notch is U-shaped.

15. The sheath of claim 12, wherein said first marker notch comprises:

first and second sidewalls, said first and second sidewalls substantially parallel to one another; and

a base wall joining said first and second side walls, said base wall substantially perpendicular to said first and second side walls.

16. The sheath of claim 12 wherein said first marker notch comprises a first and second curved sidewall, said first and second curved sidewalls meeting at a common point.

17. A sheath having a distal end opaque to x-rays, comprising:

a sheath body, said sheath body comprising at least one longitudinally extending sheath score line running substantially along a length of said sheath body;

a radiopaque marker located at a distal end of said sheath body, said radiopaque marker comprising a first marker half, said radiopaque marker defining a gap substantially aligned with said sheath score line; and

wherein said radiopaque marker abuts said sheath.

18. The sheath of claim 17, wherein said gap runs along an entirety of said first marker half.

19. The sheath of claim 17, wherein said radiopaque marker body further comprises:

a second body half; and

a second gap, said first and second gaps defining said first and second body halves; wherein

said first and second body halves are completely embedded in said sheath body.

20. The sheath of claim 19, wherein said radiopaque marker is made from a material from the group consisting of a particulate-laden polymer, barium sulfate, gold, platinum, and tungsten.